

# Reaching Out to Those Who Serve: Military Teen Adventure Camps

## Purpose

OSU Extension partners with the Ohio National Guard and Ohio University to conduct adventure camps for a unique audience – military teens. They have unique challenges setting them apart from their peers. These camps bring together those who share the experience of being in a military family. They develop connections with others who can relate to their situation, building a common bond and social support. The combination of challenge, mastery, and success leads to participant growth.

## Impact

Because campers tackle challenging activities, a residential camp experience combined with adventure programming provides a multitude of emotional, cognitive, and physical benefits.

The adventure camp experience fosters adaptation to change – something needed by all of today's young people, but especially military youth, who must adapt to separations during moves or deployments.

A partnership with OSU Extension, the National Guard, and Ohio University has made three years of successful camps possible, reaching 250 military teens from Ohio and 21 other states.



## Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (4-H)  
College of Education and Human Ecology (Family & Consumer Sciences)  
OSU Extension

## Community Partners Involved

Ohio National Guard (Family Readiness and Warrior Support)  
Ohio University (Department of Recreation and Sport Pedagogy)

## Contact

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